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**POLITICAL REFORMS PROPOSED IN LIANCHING**

The authorities of newly liberated Yen-t'ai Ch'u in Liao-yang Hsien, Liaoning Province, called a conference on 13 November 1948 to consider public opinion in this area and to plan their future operations. According to reports given at the conference, the following state of mind prevailed:

The people do not yet thoroughly understand government policy. This ch'u was liberated last winter, and some grain was distributed among the masses. Poor farm employees prepared to receive spoils from the expected land reforms. Seeing that reform has not resulted, they are beginning to doubt reform that is to be effected and are of the opinion that the CCP has changed its policy. Middle-class farmers, hearing that in other places measures harmful to their class have developed during land reform, do not fully understand the policy of cooperation. They suppose that they will be attacked and so they are afraid to attack.

Another consideration was that the majority of the rural peas political subdivisions of towns and villages are still headed by enemy and puppet leaders who have retained their positions while awaiting orders. Despite a food shortage brought about by a poor harvest and enemy action, food is still being levied and a great deal is being needlessly wasted. As a result, the people are unsettled.

To remedy these conditions, the authorities of this ch'u have decided to carry out the following activities:

1. Wide publicity will be given to actual government plans and policies. The people should be warned against attacking the poor and middle-class farmers. Principles of land reform will be clearly explained.
2. The pao-chia system will be abolished and democratic government established. All disturbing elements will be registered and deprived of their weapons and properties. All illegal conscriptions shall cease. Village governments will be established by means of elections by poor and middle-class farmers and hired employees.
3. A disaster-relief program will be established.

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